FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1987

Israel

The inquiry committee on the Pollard affair will be headed by attorney Yehoshu'a Rottenstreich, the current president of the Press Council, IDF radio reported. In an interview with Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed that the Inner Cabinet's decision to establish the committee was unanimous, adding that none of its members proposed setting up a judicial commission of inquiry. Shamir said he does not think that any witnesses will refuse to appear before the committee, which will have "very significant moral impact," and he added that the government may accept all the committee's recommendations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres likewise told Jerusalem radio that an inquiry committee has the same moral authority as an inquiry commission, and he said its conclusions will be "honored in every sense of the word." The radio also broadcast Shamir's remark that "voices" from the United States indicate "satisfaction" with the establishment of the inquiry. Meanwhile, the Knesset subcommittee on the Pollard affair began its hearings with a briefing from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Jerusalem television noted.

Lebanon

A 13 March Beirut radio report noted the arrival of IDF tanks and vehicles in southern Lebanon, adding that the Israeli reinforcements are part of a new plan to strengthen IDF forward positions.

In the wake of recent internal divisions in the Amal Movement, the radio disclosed that Amal has decided to form a new provisional command for the south. Al-Hajj 'Atif 'Awn will be responsible for the command's organizational affairs, while 'Abd al-Majid Salih will be in charge of political and information matters.

Iran

Speaking at a Political Council session, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi rebutted a U.S. television network's allegation that Iran captured T-72 tanks from Iraq and sold them to the United States, IRNA disclosed.

Syria

Golan Heights Issue — Damascus radio broadcast a People's Assembly note that urged world parliaments to condemn Israel's occupation and annexation of the Golan Heights and the "savage Israeli repression" in the area. The Assembly cited the recent killing of a Syrian woman by Israeli security forces as an example of increasingly harsh Israeli measures in the Golan.

Northern Border — The Syrian ambassador in Ankara told the Turkish Foreign Ministry 11 March that Syria is always ready to cooperate with Turkey on border security, Ankara radio reported. The ambassador acknowledged that "certain vacuums" can be created because Syria does not maintain large forces in the north.

Saudi King in Algeria, Morocco

Talks between Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid were marked by "mutual trust and total understanding" and yielded "fruitful results," the two sides affirmed in a 12 March statement carried by Riyadh radio. Both leaders stressed the need to create the right atmosphere for convening an Arab summit in order to establish a new Arab solidarity strategy based on eliminating disagreements, the statement reported.

After concluding his Algiers visit 12 March, King Fahd arrived in Morocco, where he was greeted by King Hassan II, Rabat radio announced.

Libyan-Tunisian Talks

Libya's Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi held talks on promoting "brotherly cooperation" with President Habib Bourguiba and other Tunisian officials 12 March, JANA reported. In a statement carried by Tunis radio, Al-Humaydi said Bourguiba showed great interest in developing ties and issued "directives" in this regard. Al-Humaydi noted the visit will have "positive effects in the near future" on bilateral relations, JANA added.

Egypt

An Interior Ministry source cited by the London paper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* revealed that recent student unrest in Al-Fayyum is now under control. Authorities arrested 100 students after demonstrations and attacks on Christian-owned shops

Sudan

Southern Conflict — A government source told the Khartoum paper *Al-Siyasah* that unofficial contacts are being held with the SPLA in an attempt to bring viewpoints closer, SUNA reported. In Addis Ababa, SPLA leader Colonel John Garang held a press conference in which he announced that his forces captured the northern Upper Nile town of Paryang 10 March, according to the SPLA's clandestine radio. Garang also showed a video film of the SPLA's capture of Pibor and invited journalists to visit Pibor to confirm its capture.

Chad Mediation — Ndjamena radio confirmed that Libyan and Chadian representatives held talks under Sudanese auspices in Khartoum 7 March, but noted Chad's view that the meeting failed because of Libyan intransigence.

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Wakil Says 'Flexibility' Shown at Geneva Talks

LD130804 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 12, BAKHTAR — Talks were held and views were exchanged between the DRA and Pakistan on a number of basic subjects which have yet remained unsolved including the timetable of the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to their country during the third stage of the seventh round of Geneva talks on the solution of the situation around Afghanistan which lasted from February [words indistinct].

This was said by Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA in reply to a question of BAKHTAR correspondent.

He said that prior to the beginning of the talks he had announced in a press conference that Afghanistan is hopeful that the present round of talks will be the final one.

Abdol Wakil who was heading the Afghan delegation to the talks pointed out that the delegation of the DRA presented constructive proposals and demonstrated necessary flexibility aimed at expediting the process of talks and for a speedier attainment of a political accord.

The principled and peaceful stand of the DRA in the talks, Abdol Wakil continued to say, removed any kind of scepticism as to our honest political will for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan through peaceful means and paved the ground for the adoption of final steps.

It is evident that the principled flexibility shown by the Afghan side can not by itself achieve the final objective and requires that the other side should also fulfill its [word indistinct] reaching to a real and comprehensive political accord.

During the talks, efforts were made to vitiate the sound atmosphere of the talks and to create obstacles in the way of reaching to an understanding. For instance, the U.S. decision for dispatching 300 Stinger missiles to the opposition armed groups and the staging of baseless accusations on air raids and others. Despite such happenings, the stand of the Afghan side in the talks was positive, Abdol Wakil said.

At the end of the talks, it was agreed that the date for the next round of talks will be set at a favourable time through the diplomatic channel. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as in the past, will not withhold its honest efforts for seeking a real and comprehensive political solution of the issue, said Abdol Wakil.

Deputy Defense Minister Views Soviet Withdrawal

BK091102 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Feb 87 p 1

[By Mushahid Hussain]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 27 — In an interview with *The Muslim*, Afghanistan's Deputy Defence Minister General Muhammad Nabi Azimi has said that the total strength of the Mujahidin is approximately 100,000, sixty percent of which operate within Afghanistan. He admitted that some Mujahidin groups have become more active of late, especially after the proclamation of the unilateral ceasefire by the Kabul regime from January 15 onwards. Gen Azimi also made it clear that while the new timetable "will not be in months, it could be 1 or 1 1/2 year".

This interview, the second by *The Muslim* with the Afghan Military Chief in 18 months, formed part of a recent week-long visit to Kabul. The relaxed and apparently confident Afghan General refused to divulge figures regarding the precise strength of his own country's army as well as that of the Soviet Red Army. He, however, disclosed that apart from the first consignment of 200 Stingers already supplied to the Mujahidin by the United States, another 150 were underway.

The 65-minute interview took place in Gen Azimi's office at the Afghan Ministry of Defence on the outskirts of Kabul. During the previous interview which took place in the same office in October, 1985, Gen Azimi was flanked by two large-size portraits of Babrak Karmal and Mikhail Gorbachev. This time both were missing and instead there were small size portraits of the entire Politburo of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan. When asked to comment on these changes in his office, Gen Azimi merely smiled.

On Mujahidin

Some groups like the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jamiat-e-Eslami have become more active of late, particularly the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. There have also been some incidents of bomb blasts in Kabul. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has also become active in the north. The majority of American weapons go to these groups. They are mostly engaged in rocket attacks, mining areas, and launching ground-to-air missiles. There are approximately 100,000 armed personnel fighting our government, some of whom are active and others non-active. 60 percent are operating within Afghanistan. The largest component of the men under arms is that of Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. So far, as a result of our amnesty offer, 5,000 guerrillas have laid down arms and joined hands with us. The majority of guerrilla bases are in Pakistan while Iran also has 35-40 bases for arming and training of armed groups against our government.

On Supply of Stingers

These were first supplied about 6 months ago by the United States mainly to the Jamiat-e-Eslami and the Hezb-e Eslami. We first captured Stingers about 4 months ago in Qandahar. 200 Stingers were supplied by the Americans in the first consignment. It takes 3 months training to use these Stingers and this training is done in Pakistan. According to our information, another 150 Stingers are going to be supplied by the United States to the same groups. Yes, the Stingers do have an impact and recently one of them hit and shot down a passenger aircraft near Khowst.

On The Ceasefire

There has been a lessening of military operations from before. But it varies from group to group and area to area. Some groups observe ceasefire in one area and others continue fighting in some other area. The most active guerrilla commanders within

Afghanistan are Ismail Turan in Herat, Jalaluddin Haqqani in the East, and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the North. If the ceasefire fails, then there will be resumption of war and we will fight to the last.

Role of Red Army

Their number is certainly less than the figure often mentioned in the Western Press. (The most cited figure is 110,000. They are mostly engaged in guarding highways and economic installations while fighting is done by our army.

On Timetable of Soviet Withdrawal

Our side is showing considerable flexibility on this issue. Although I cannot say for sure, the new timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan will not be in months. It cannot be, due to the logistics involved in the exit of the Soviet contingent. It could be between 1 year or a year and a half. We can hold our own without the Red Army. Regarding the strength of the Afghan army, Dr Najib recently said that we have approximately 500,000 people under arms which include the army, the police, and all other security forces.

On Role of China

Despite China's improvement in relations with the Soviet Union, there is no change in Chinese attitude towards our country. They continue to support the guerrillas at the same level as before.

On Prospects of Geneva

Everything depends on the United States and Pakistan. We are very hopeful about the success of the current round of talks at Geneva, specially after the recent contacts between the government of Pakistan and the Soviet Union. We hope that these will provide the basis for early solution.

Q: We hope some day your officers can also come to Pakistani military training institutions, just as nowadays they go for military training to India and the socialist countries.

A: Yes, we hope so, when there is peace. Then we will be able to tell our Pakistani friends about our own experiences in war.

Romanian President Ceausescu Arrives for Visit

BK120734 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu was given a warm and ceremonial welcome when he arrived in Dhaka this morning on a 3-day state visit to Bangladesh. He is accompanied by Madam Elena Ceausescu. Other members of his entourage include Deputy Prime Minister Dimitrie Ancuta and Foreign Minister Ioan Totu.

As the distinguished guests appeared at the door of the special Romanian plane carrying them from New Delhi a 21 gun salute (?was given). President and Begum Raushan Ershad were the first to welcome the Romanian guests. President Ershad and President Ceausescu warmly shook hands. [passage omitted on airport ceremonies]

Calls on President Ershad

BK130417 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMB 12 Mar 87

[Text] President Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu called on President Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad at Banga Bhavan this evening. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters, regional and international issues of common concern. The foreign minister, information minister, and the finance minister were present.

Addresses Ershad at Banquet

BK130225 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] President Ershad has expressed the hope that the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Romania will grow in depth and dimension in the years to come. He was speaking at a banquet given in honor of the Romanian president, Nicolae Ceausescu, in Dhaka last night. The president said exchange of high-level visits and conclusion of agreements on cooperation in the economic, commercial, technical, and cultural fields have facilitated in forging cordial bilateral relations. The two countries have established close cooperation in international field for the cause of peace and progress. President Ershad referred to Bangladesh's strict adherence to an independent foreign policy based on its abiding commitment to UN Charter and the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

About the formal launching of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Dhaka in 1985 at the initiative of Bangladesh, he said a new horizon has emerged in this area for regional cooperation for improving the quality of life of 1 billion people.

The president expressed Bangladesh's deep concern at the deteriorating global situation which has been posing threat to peace and security. These include the explosive Middle East situation, the presence of foreign troops in some sovereign countries, and the illegal occupation of Namibia by racist regime of Pretoria. He said the continued arms race has resulted in serious impediments to security and escalation of international tension. Redirection of resources from armaments to development should take place in the interest of the developed and developing countries alike. The president also said a just and equitable international economic order is an imperative for improving the quality of life of the people everywhere in the world.

Speaking at the banquet, President Ceausescu said his visit to Bangladesh is an expression of good relations between the two countries. He also called for broadening these friendly relations in different fields of activities. The Romanian president said concerted global efforts are necessary for cessation of tension and promotion of peace and harmony. The existing tension and distrust increase the danger of a world war which will turn into a nuclear disaster leading to the annihilation of the conditions of life on this planet.

The Romanian president suggested an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to solve Middle East problems. He also called for immediate cessation of all military actions in the Iran-Iraq war.

Referring to the difficult economic situation of the developing countries, President Ceausescu emphasized the need for an international conference where both the developed and developing countries can work out agreements conducive to a global situation of underdevelopment problems. The banquet was attended, among others, by Begum Ershad, Madam Ceausescu, Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, and members of the Romanian delegation.

Agreement Extending DPRK Cooperation Signed

BK121521 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Bangladesh and North Korea have decided to extend the existing bilateral agreement on agricultural cooperation by another year. The decision was taken in Dhaka yesterday at the meeting held between agriculture minister, Mr M.A. Munim and the visiting North Korean minister for foreign economic affairs, Chong Song-nam. It was also decided at the meeting to hold a session of Bangladesh-North Korea joint commission soon to discuss the agreement. The agricultural cooperation agreement, which the two countries signed in 1981, expires in December this year.

Police Control Campus After 'Day-Long Battle'

BK111624 Hong Kong AFP in English
1620 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Dhaka, March 11 (AFP) — More than 2,000 riot and armed police fought a day-long battle Wednesday with students at Dhaka University before taking control of the volatile campus, police said.

At least three students were hospitalised and 38 taken into police custody when police raided two hostels from which students had

attacked security forces with stones and home-made bombs, hospital and police sources said.

Police spokesman said they burst dozens of tear gas shells and mounted baton charges in fights with students who set fire to at least one government jeep and two lorries during clashes in and around the campus.

"Our forces have taken position inside the campus and are in full control of the situation," the spokesman said.

The Wednesday clashes began when students organised noisy processions protesting the death Monday of three students, including a student opposition leader, in a campus explosion, police said. [passage omitted]

A police spokesman said police entered the campus Wednesday and chased missile-throwing students into their hostels to protect public property and restore order.

Under normal practice, police are barred from entering the campus without the prior permission of university authorities.

University Vice-Chancellor Abdul Mannan was holding an emergency meeting of the university syndicate late Wednesday and was not available for comment.

Ministry Issues Press Release

BK121830 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The government has appreciated the initiatives and efforts of the teachers and the syndicate of Dhaka University for restoring normalcy in the campus and prevailing upon the students to refrain from indulging in acts of indiscipline in future.

An Education Ministry press release said police force will be withdrawn and the release of the arrested students may be secured with due process of law.

The press release said a delegation of the teachers of Dhaka University led by Vice Chancellor Professor M.A. Mannan had a meeting with Education Minister Mahbubur Rahman [title as heard] and discussed at length various aspects of the situation now obtaining in the Dhaka University campus.

The delegation was apprised by the education minister the interest and anxiety of President Ershad and his government in maintaining proper academic atmosphere in all educational institutions, including Dhaka University, and their normal functioning for the greater interest and welfare of the student community.

Angolan Foreign Trade Minister Arrives for Talks

MB121358 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Angola may soon receive aid from India to explore its oil fields within the context of bilateral cooperation. India expressed this intention through Brahm Dutt, minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, during talks with Angolan Foreign Trade Minister Ismael Martins.

Ismael Martins is paying an official visit to India, continuing bilateral talks to expand cooperation in various fields. India has offered to train cadres for Angolan industry and is prepared to develop cooperation projects in the agricultural, health, transport, technical, scientific, cultural, and other fields of bilateral interest. The Indian delegation to the talks is led by Eduardo Faleiro, minister of state for external affairs.

Discusses Cooperation With Faleiro

BK130333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] India and Angola discussed various areas of cooperation at a meeting between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, and the Angolan minister for external commerce, Mr Ismael Gaspar Martins, in New Delhi. The two ministers said that their discussions will pave the way for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, transporation, and telecommunications. India has also agreed to help construct a hospital in Angola.

Religious Heads Urged Not To Act in Partisan Manner

BK121654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The Punjab assembly today solemnly resolved to mobilize all moral, constitutional, and political forces to rededicate the state and its people for the unity, integrity, and solidarity of the nation. A private member's resolution adopted unanimously in the House today also expressed the undying faith of the House in communal harmony. The resolution tabled by Dr Kewal Krishan, Congress-I, and four others has also strongly condemned terrorism in all its froms.

Participating in the discussion, the state chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said religious institutions should not be used for political purposes. He called upon religious leaders, particularly the acting chief of the Akal Takht [highest religious seat of the Sikhs], Jathedar Darshan Singh, not to act in a partisan manner. Mr Barnala alleged that the breakaway group of the Akali Dal has in utter frustration misused the institution of Akal Takht for political purposes. He said his [Darshan Singh's] group in order to gain influence over this high institution has compromised with the terrorists.

Mr Barnala condemned the use of a room in the parikrama [premises] of the Golden Temple as a torture house of innocent persons.

The chief minister criticized the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] [Sikh Temple's Management Committee] of down grading the Singh Sahibs [religious bodies] for the status of its employees. He demanded that hukumnamas [edicts] be issued by the high priests banning the misuse of religious places by terrorists.

Earlier, the state legislative assembly suspended a member of the breakaway group of the Akali Dal, Mr Gurdev Singh Badal, for the remaining session for deliberately obstructing the proceedings of the House.

The president of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Barnala, has convened a meeting of the district presidents of the party in Chandigarh next Saturday. A spokesman of the party said the meeting will prepare a comprehensive plan for a massive political offensive at the grassroots level to educate the masses about the current situation in the state.

Amritsar 'Terrorists' Kill Congress-I Leader

BK121653 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] A district Congress-I leader, Mr Gulsan Kudmar, was shot dead by terrorists at Chowk Chinpurani in Amritsar today. Police said two marksmen came to Mr Kumar's shop and shot him. He died on his way to hospital.

Two Killed by Gunmen in Punjab 13 March

BK131612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] A medical student was shot dead by two unidentified persons near his residence in Amritsar this morning. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the victim was on his way to college when the assailants waylaid him and one of them shot him dead.

In another incident, a farmer was shot dead and his son seriously injured by two suspected terrorists near village Berhampur in Ropar District this afternoon. The victims were working in their field when they were attacked.

Junejo Opens Rocket Propellent Plant in Havelian
BK071120 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said Pakistan wants peace and stability in the region in order to devote its resources for the welfare and prosperity of the people. Opening the rocket propellent plant in Havelian this morning, he said Pakistan has always cooperated in the efforts for peace in the region and the world as a whole. It also wants to promote its relations with all the countries, particularly with its neighbors, based on cordiality and friendship which is the cornerstone of its foreign policy. It has no aggressive designs against any country, but at the same time it is fully conscious that defense capability and strength is the guarantee to peace.

The prime minister said China has always extended to Pakistan beneficial cooperation and many of our projects in the defense field have been completed by the Chinese assistance. The present rocket propellent plant is also a testimony of Chinese cooperation.

Opposition Leaders Criticize Proposed U.S. Aid
BK121304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] A number of opposition leaders in Pakistan have criticized the Reagan administration's proposed aid package to Islamabad under the present circumstance. The Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, has demanded that the aid package be made conditional to holding a party-based free and fair elections in the country.

Mr Wali Khan said the reported U.S. decision would sabotage efforts in finding a just political settlement in Pakistan.

The secretary general of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, Mr Malik Qasim, said the massive arms aid would not help in deescalating border tensions.

Opposition Boycotts Passing of Amendment Bill
BK121630 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The National Assembly this afternoon adopted the Constitution 10th Amendment Bill which provides for reducing the working days of the assembly from 160 to 130 days. It was passed by 174 to 1 vote. Earlier, the opposition staged a walkout.

The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, addressing the House after the adoption of the bill said he has asked the special committee appointed by him to submit its recommendations about the amendments to be made in the Constitution on priority basis to enable the country to revert to the 1973 Constitution. Referring to the 10th Amendment Bill, the prime minister said detailed discussion had taken place on it and the opposition members fully participated in it. The prime minister said the opposition played its role in the discussion on the amendment bill and full opportunity was provided to them to express their viewpoint. But the way in which the opposition walked out has pained him deeply. He said in spite of the request to them to return to the House, the opposition decided to remain outside the House during the final proceedings. Since the oppostion was in no mood to return to the House, they decided to go ahead with the adoption of the bill.

He said the majority party respected the views of the opposition, but under a parliamentary system it is the prerogative of the majority party to adopt a bill which is in the interest of the people and the country. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo invited the opposition to return to the House to discuss fully the problems of the people and (?as well) the resolutions which are of the interest of the nation.

The House will now meet tomorrow morning.

SRI LANKA

Provincial By-Elections To Be Held, Except in Jaffna

BK121119 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The Cabinet yesterday decided to hold byelection to vacant parliamentary six seats in the northern and eastern provinces other than the Jaffna peninsula as early as possible.

The move is aimed at restoring democracy to areas where the security forces are in control. [passage omitted]

Activists Given Terms of Surrender; Offered Rewards

BK121115 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] According to the Media Center, those who are at present engaged in violent activities and who wish to surrender to the government may do so by giving themselves up to the coordinating officers of the armed services in operational areas and at police stations in other areas. The Media Center added that they may also surrender to government and assistant government agents and principals of schools. Those who surrender will be treated humanely and will be given proper food and accommodation.

Rewards will be given to those who bring in foreign made weapons, explosives, communications equipment, and other such items. The rewards range from 1,000 rupees to 20,000 rupees. In addition to the payment of the reward, those who surrender will be rehabilitated by the government.

AFP: Tamil Militants Killed in Clashes With Troops

BK121828 Hong Kong AFP in English
1713 GMT 12 GMT Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, March 12 (AFP) — Four members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main Tamil separatist group, have been killed in a clash with security forces in northern Sri Lanka, the state Media Center said Thursday.

The four LTTE guerrillas were killed Tuesday when security forces attacked a LTTE hide-out in retaliation for a separatist attack on Navatkuli army camp in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Center said. One member of the security forces was wounded in the attack, it added.

The Tamil newspaper *Virakesari* reported Thursday that ten Tamil militants died Wednesday in heavy fighting between LTTE guerrillas and members of the rival Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front at Mandur in eastern Batticaloa District.

The newspaper also said that many schools in the north of country have been closed for the past week because of bombing and shelling by security forces in the Jaffna area.

The newspaper said a woman was killed and several men wounded when a military helicopter atacked a civilian area near the Navatkuli army camp. The newspaper's reports could not be independently verified.

Militant members of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority have been waging a bloody campaign for a separate state on the north and east of the island, alleging discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD131235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] On the eve of the most blessed birth anniversary of the Peer of the Pious, the Peer of the Faithful, His Holiness 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be upon him, the political-wroshipping Friday prayer ceremonies were held throughout the country today. The citizens of Tehran, with their presence at the Tehran University campus and the surrounding thoroughfares, performed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his second Friday sermon Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the fact that tomorrow is the blessed birth anniversary of the great figure of the history of mankind and of Islam, His Holiness 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, and cited some highlights of the most fruitful aspects of that holiness's life in terms of overcoming the grave problems of society at the dawn of Islam.

He said: The problems that confronted 'Ali ibn Abi Taiib, peace be upon him, at the dawn of Islam, have arisen again today in our Islamic society which is pursuing that holiness's path. Qaseqin, Mareqin, and Nakethin [groups that opposed Islam], who existed at the dawn of Islam are still plotting against the Islamic Republic of Iran's rule and system. Pedantic men of religion, Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], capitalists, and men of power who lived in the days of 'Ali ibn Talib, peace be upon him, and who in those days could not tolerate that holiness's rule, today are on a much larger scale in the shape of superpowers, reactionism, Zionism, and big capitalists in a united front against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the secret of the strength of the Islamic Revolution against all these plots and the defeat of our enemies lies in the awareness, alertness, selflessness, and generosity of our people. These characteristics did not exist among the people in the days of 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be upon him. The battle of Siffin demonstrated this: At that battle peace was imposed upon his holiness, creating many problems and difficulties for 'Ali, peace be upon him, and for Islamic society.

The self-sacrifice and generosity of the people of our time were not in the service of 'Ali ibn Abi Talib in those days; characters such as Malik al-Ashtar and Muhammad al-Hanafi were extremely rare. In those days people were unable to appreciate the rule and leadership of 'Ali. But from this standpoint, our people today are more advanced than those who lived at the dawn of Islam. Today, our nation's awareness, faith, alertness, and selflessness are defeating the United States, the Soviet Union, Iraq, and Israel, rendering the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam null and void.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani later noted that the blessed Koran complains about the people at the dawn of Islam, saying they failed to pay attention to the Friday prayer sermons. He said: Today is the anniversary of the bomb explosion at the Friday prayer ceremonies at Tehran University. While the shattered bodies of the members of the Friday congregation were being carried away from the scene that day, the Friday imam of Tehran and the congregation remained in position, rock-solid, performing the prayer ceremonies.

Continuing his second sermon, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council noted the nation's selflessness and self-sacrifice in sending public donations to the battlefronts, particularly from the bomb-stricken towns. He cited the sending of some 2,000 truckloads of such donations over the past few days, even under conditions of war. He said: Our people's generosity is an enemy-smashing quality. The people should continue along this path.

The Majlis speaker then turned to the outcome of the Tower Commission's work and said: The results of that commission's work show that it wants to continue the same policy as is pursued by the White House. Raising the baseless idea that the Soviet Union has massed some 36 divisions on our northern border had two aims: One was to prevent Iran from sending troops to the front for the war with the Zionist enemy; the other was to strain Iran's relations with the Soviet Union.

Concluding his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani turned to the issue of Lebanon. He said: The Syrian presence in Lebanon brought about relative security and eliminated the enemies' conspiracy to bring about a division between Syria and the Lebanese Hezbollah. Syria, the strongest obstacle to Israel, knows that the Lebenese Hezbollah are the staunchest Lebanese force fighting against Israel.

Views U.S. Aims at Provoking Soviets

LD131524 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday disclosed that recent U.S. propaganda efforts aimed at distracting Iran's Muslim forces from the Iraqi imposed war fronts and marring relations between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani's remarks came during Friday prayers ceremony here at the Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, attended by a huge gathering of Muslim worshippers despite the rainfall in the capital.

Pointing to the Tower Commission report on desperate efforts by the White House to establish ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Majlis speaker stated that they (the Americans) have included things in the report aimed at provoking the Soviets against us and the vice-versa. He said the main purpose of this move was to mar Irano-Soviet relations and to "involve us in a war with our northern neighbor."

The substitute leader of Tehran's Friday prayers also said a lot has been written in the Tower Commission report quoting Iranian officials "which are all lies."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, who is also imam's representative to the the Supreme Defence Council, stated that when they (the Americans) came here they told us that the Soviets have deployed 36 army divisions on their southern border intending to attack Iran.

Hoj. Rafsanjani said that the Americans had also given Iran what was supposed to be a satellite photograph, which he said

"we will show to the world." The supposed map, he said, has specified lines through which, the Americans claimed, the Soviets would infiltrate Iran through certain points, such as Aras, the Caspian, etc. "They exactly meant to say that the Soviets intended to wage a war against us," said the Majlis speaker.

"By this," the imam's SDC representative said "the Americans followed two objectives. First that we [words indistinct] our troops in the war against Iraq, and second that we would not improve our relations with the Soviets and get closer to each other."

The leader of Friday prayers said the Americans obviously did not succeed in their plans at that time and have therefore included these things in the Tower Commission claiming that the Iranians had raised them. "They (the Americans) are still bent upon mischief," he said.

Another topic Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani raised in the second sermon of the prayers, was Syria's military presence in Lebanon, which he said "thanks God, the issue was solved amiably. [passage omitted]"

The Majlis speaker said that with the message the Syrian president had sent to his Iranian counterpart, "it became clear for us that Syria does not intend to create trouble for the Hezbollah and [words indistinct] point." [passage omitted]

On the eve of the new (Iranian) year, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to celebrate the new year but "in a suitable manner so that the country's main issue, i.e, the war, would not be forgotten."

He then referred to the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (AS), which falls on Saturday (March 14), and said that in early Islam, 'Ali (AS) was always the resolver of the difficulties of the Muslim community.

One of the greatest problems, he said, was the plot against the prophet (SAW) on the night of hijrat (emigration to Medina) which was foiled after Imam 'Ali (AS) replaced him in his bed. In the wars in early Islam and in the battles of the prophet (SAW), 'Ali (AS) was always at the forefront fighting alongside Mohammad (SAW) and played an effective role in the history of Islam. [passage omitted]

Mohtashemi's Syrian Visit, Troops in Lebanon Viewed

LD131310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary from "The Review of the Past Week"]

[Text] In the past week Interior Minister Mohtashami visited Damascus and held discussions with the high-ranking officials of that country, especially with Hafiz al-Asad. These discussions centered on certain anxieties about the possibility of the arrival of Syrian forces in the southern suburbs of Beirut. In spite of the fact that Hezbollahi forces have repeatedly warned that the presence of Syrian forces in that region is unnecessary and could give rise to dangers, some factions, especially the Druze minority under the leadership of Walid Junblatt, and the Lebanese phalangists are trying to incite Syrian forces. Informed observers have also talked about certain measures paving the way for these clashes, and they evaluate the resumption of the camps war as part of the same conspiracy.

Mohtashami described his discussions with Syrian officials as positive and constructive. During that trip he conveyed an important message from President Khamene'i. He said: In that visit Hafiz al-Asad emphasized the fact that the Hezbollah shone as the most sincere force against Israel and Lebanon, and said that the Hezbollah forces should remain armed. Mohtashami added that during that visit he received assurances that the sad incident in West Beirut was not premeditated.

In connection with Syrian measures for bringing about reforms in Lebabon's political system, details of the agreements reached as a result of the discussions in Damascus have still not been published. However, in light of the limited nature of the discussions and the fact that they gave rise to differences between various political groups in Lebanon, one can foresee how much hope one should pin on the possibility of ending the 12 years of clashes in that country.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said: The Christians do not intend to give us our rights. According to Sunni circles in Lebanon, these efforts only result in wasting time. On the other hand, some Christian circles in Lebanon have said that they have intentions of giving up their rights to the presidency.

In the same connection, while Lebanese President Amin Jummayil changed his position on the arrival of Syrian forces in West Beirut and expressed his pleasure at it, a publication affiliated to the faction led by Camille Sham'un, a Maronite leader, described it as a step toward the partition of Lebanon and, in view of the fact that it violated the Philip Habib agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces, including Syrian forces, the publication said it was a prelude for the return of Zionist forces to South Lebanon.

Musavi Opens Scientific Research Center

LD121918 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — In an era when the big powers are exploiting the outcome of the scientists' efforts to further their colonial plunders, scientific research in Iran is serving humanity as well as the ideals of the Iranian people.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the new center for special research and application of materials and energy, Musavi pointed to the progress made by Iran's committed innovators in various fields, including military areas after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Musavi said that dedicated innovation could help Iran reach self-sufficiency in the most sensitive fields, especially in military industries. If the Third World could overcome its inferiority complex vis-a-vis the big powers, an atmosphere of scientific research, innovation, and development will be ushered in, added the premier.

Musavi said that the reason Iran manufactures weapons is to counter the strategems of the big powers and boost its industries, so that it can be an example of an independent nation to other countries.

Referring to the country's advances in scientific researches, the prime minister said "We witness new researches we are proud of." "No one dictates us what to do, but we decide ourselves," Musavi stressed.

The Islamic Revolution of Iran does not bow before global arrogance, said Musavi adding that scientific research and development made by the Iranian people will certainly safeguard the Islamic Revolution.

Later the minister of culture and higher education, Mohammad Farhadi, addressed the gathering and presented a report on research activities of his ministry. Noting that the major part of the center was completed after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution and the dismissal of foreign experts, Farhadi referred to the center as a source of pride for the Islamic Republic.

Disclosing that the primary stages of the plan for formation of Iran's scientific information bank have been completed, Farhadi added that a nationwide scientific information network will be formed shortly.

Remarking that the information bank will be linked to the world's scientific research centers, Farhadi said that presently the bank is coordinating with the French scientific center. "God willing in future all Iranian researchers can have access to the latest scientific information of the world by way of this bank," added Farhadi.

The new center for special research and application of materials and energy conducts researches in the four fields of energy, materials, air pollution, electronics and computer. The center enjoys the benefit of advanced equipment and devices which are unique in the Middle East region.

Besharati Speaks at Guyana Nonaligned Meeting

For reportage on Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati's statements and meetings at the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau's conference in Georgetown, Guyana, see the Guyana section of the 13 March Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Cooperation Meeting With India Reviewed

PM101143 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Mar 87 pp 1-18

[Exclusive interview with Mas'ud Qamsari, head of international affairs at the Ministry of Industries, by Unnamed *Keyhan* economic correspondent]

[Text] [Correspondent] Last week the fourth joint meeting of the economic and political commission between Iran and India was held in New Delhi. What agreements were reached by the two countries?

[Qamsari] The joint commission for bilateral economic cooperation with India meets every year in either Tehran or New Delhi.

This year's meeting was held from 15 through 21 February in New Delhi and was chaired by our country's foreign minister.

The meeting started its work by forming three committees for industry, trade, and cultural cooperation.

In general, the policy of the Islamic Republic and its officials is to expand bilateral cooperation with India, which is one of the most active members of the Nonaligned Movement. Within this framework we tried at the meeting to create favorable circumstances for industrial and trade relations.

Unfortunately the trend of last year's cooperation did not continue as was hoped. Perhaps the main reason for this was the drop in the price of oil and India's unwillingness to purchase this product.

In the industrial committee matters of mutual interest and grounds for further cooperation between various ministries and the Indian partners were discussed. With regard to cooperation with the Ministry of Industries, there were some agreements on cloth manufacturing, cement industries, and also training cooperation in connection with the large project at (Elkil Benzan.)

With regard to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the letter of agreement signed by the Iranian minister of heavy industries and his Indian counterpart was approved. The most important section of this letter deals with cooperation in the fields of the manufacture of machinery, the production of spare parts for cars, and future industrial cooperation between the two countries.

In connection with the Ministry of Mines and Metals, one of the issues discussed was one that has been left in limbo since before the revolution. This is the iron-ore mining project at Kudremukh in India. There has been a lot of investment in this project but so far problems in this connection have not been solved.

During the meeting we managed to convince the Indian side to accept a deadline to solve these problems. There will be a meeting in New Delhi to discuss the issue before December 1987 so that we can use this immense project to provide raw materials for Iran's steel industries.

There was also some discussion with regard to cooperation in the technical field and training of personnel in steel factories and also for purchasing spare parts for Iranian steel industries.

Keeping previous discussions in mind, the Ministry of Construction Jihad has decided to consider the small project of India's village industries.

It was also decided that plans dealing with pesticides, especially for corn, cotton, and sugar cane, be discussed by experts from both sides. Also to be discussed are plans dealing with producing paper from sugar cane waste and the ceramic manufacturing project.

India has expressed the desire to cooperate with Iran in the area of power plants.

Another field where the Indians announced their readiness for cooperation with Iran was the establishment of the major railroad project between Bafq and Bandar-e 'Abbas. They said they were willing to cooperate in installing early warning systems and communications networks as well as training personnel for this project.

There were several discussions in the trade committee. It was decided that Iran will buy from India a total of half of what India purchases from Iran. Of course the major part of India's purchases from Iran will be oil. Therefore, it was decided that oil delegations from the two sides sign the relevant protocol within the next month in Tehran.

The cultural committee talked about educational, cultural, and sports relations and also the necessary facilities for visas for nationals of both countries.

[Correspondent] Is India's industrial growth and technology advanced enough to provide Iranian industries with technical and training needs?

[Qamsari] In general our country's industries, as far as machinery and technology are concerned, are dependent on the West, so we cannot comment precisely on how much India will be able to help us. But what is certain is that we are not yet fully aware of India's technological and industrial capabilities, so again we cannot comment. However, we did express our readiness to learn of these capabilities to the Indian partners during this meeting. We stressed that we were willing to cooperate with India, especially with regard to the cement industries, keeping in mind our self-sufficiency schemes in the production of equipment and machinery for Iranian industries, which must reach 85 percent within the next few years. Of course there is the condition that they buy some of the goods manufactured by these industries.

[Correspondent] Was there any discussion on the improvement of the quality of Indian products, especially automative spare parts?

[Qamsari] When the agreements are put into practice one of the most important things that the Iranian side — the Ministry of Heavy Industries — will bring up will be the quality of the products. If this is not acceptable, there will, of course, be no cooperation.

[Correspondent] What decisions were reached with regard to textile industries and the (Elkil Benzan) project?

[Qamsari] In connection with the textile industry, India will cooperate with Iran to modernize and reconstruct some textile plants. These plans were prepared last year and discussed. At present one of our country's textile factories is being modernized by India, and if we get desirable results we will be willing to give the Indians more reconstruction projects.

The (Elkil Benzan) project is very important since its output will be used to manufacture laundry detergent. The Indian partner has accepted the Iranian suggestion to create educational programs for this project, so the training will begin soon in India.

By the way, both countries will jointly establish standard facilities and laboratories for industrial research.

[Correspondent] Bearing in mind India's industrial position, how successful do you think cooperation between the two countries will be?

[Qamsari] I think India has good capabilities in the two fields of small village industries and heavy industries. Recently foreign investments have poured into India so we have seen considerable growth in that country's industries. Many Western countries have tried to launch "joint production" plans with India and are at present engaged in special projects.

The abovementioned points have caused India to be one of the Nonaligned Movement's most advanced countries.

Minister Views Agriculture, Construction Jihad Merger

PM121907 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Mar 87 p 18

[Interview with Minister of Construction Jihad Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent; date, place not given]

[Excerpts][Correspondent] We have learned that the Cabinet has approved a plan to merge the Ministry of Agriculture with the Ministry of the Construction Jihad and that it has presented this plan to the Majlis. Would you please detail the government's intentions and the background to the plan?

[Zangeneh] As you know, from the time when it started its work on the imam's orders the Construction Jihad has been involved with agricultural and related matters, although it has also done major work in welfare projects and rural construction.

The Jihad was involved from the beginning in basic agricultural work such as distributing pesticides, seeds and seedlings, and machinery, and dredging irrigation channels and laying on water supplies. When the Majlis was discussing the Jihad's charter, one of the main tasks discussed, which was mentioned in the first clause of the charter, was this organization's duties toward agriculture. Therefore the principle of the Jihad's presence on the agricultural scene was made official. But, because of its complications, the manner of this involvement was left to the government.

The government then prepared a directive outlining the activities of the Construction Jihad in agriculture, which was not an ideal situation for us.

For a year there has been talk among such government organizations as the plan and budget organization, the prime minister's office, the labor organization, and even some Majlis deputies of merging the Ministry of Agriculture into the Jihad. These bodies all regard the government's executive organizations in the same way. The issue was discussed because agriculture is one of the country's most important production and economic fields. It is

linked to such issues as migrations, which in turn are dependent on crop production. There was some uncoordinated action between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Construction Jihad because the two organizations were parallel and manpower was being wasted. We believe, though, that the forces in both organizations serve the country and the revolution.

Last March the labor organization presented a plan which outlined the need to coordinate the country's agricultural activity. The agricultural affairs secretariats in the prime minister's office and in the plan and budget organization reached the conclusion that, because they have similar duties, the Ministries of Agriculture and the Construction Jihad must be combined. In addition, there had recently been some differences between the two bodies. So the government met in three long sessions and finally approved the merger plan by a decisive vote.

Our view of the merger is that the Jihad had much contact with agricultural affairs from its foundation. The Jihad saw the principal way of relieving poverty in the villages in crop production, cattle ranching, agricultural and rural industries, fishing, and small handicrafts, which make up the life-cycle of the village. This caused the Jihad to devote most of its budget to agriculture.

It became active in all agricultural matters such as water, livestock, and village industries and in practical terms achieved considerable growth. It expanded the rural construction bureau so that we now have some 800 or 900 construction outfits in villages providing agricultural services to farmers.

On the other hand, one must mention the positive changes made in the Ministry of Agriculture by the dedicated and faithful Hezbollah brothers. These brothers themselves realized that the traditional working methods in the ministry could not meet the present needs. They themselves set about building service centers and established 600 of them. They attracted dedicated and religious persons from the labor organization, many of whom were members of the Construction Jihad.

In addition to these common factors within the two ministries, the considerable growth in agriculture required research centers, and this is why the workers in the Jihad grew ever closer to the researchers at agricultural research centers in the countryside. The sensitivity of the work dictated that stored goods must be distributed quickly, and these goods were in the hands of the Agriculture Ministry.

Another point was that the sympathetic researchers of the Agriculture Ministry wanted the results of their research to be put into action in the villages. All these elements combined to put the two ministries together.

The country's combined governmental organizations as well as the prime minister, who is head of the government, understood this need and reached the conclusion that it was no longer in the nation's interest for these two ministries to be separate. From this background the present plan emerged. Implementation of the plan is intended to remove parallel action and create a unified leadership and management as well as to coordinate complementary efforts in the ministries and is expected to yield positive results in terms of the removal of bureaucracy.

[Correspondent] On what basis is this merger planned?

[Zangeneh] At present around 80 percent of the personnel at the Ministry of Agriculture are employed in organizations linked to that ministry. Because they have their own independent financial, legal, and administrative arrangements, the only change for them will be that their chief will be not the minister of agriculture but the minister of the Construction Jihad. The remaining 10 percent of personnel are working at service centers providing cover with our own rural construction centers in the villages.

In any case, if the aim is agricultural growth, would it not be better if we moved in that direction in a revolutionary manner rather than an old, bureaucratic way? I think the answer to that question is clear. The Jihad does not have the Agriculture Ministry's administrative and financial problems or, indeed, any problems at all in dealing with the public. Agriculture, whose growth is the focus of attention of all the country's officials, must be run in the revolutionary manner accomplished by the Construction Jihad. [passage omitted describing organizational differences between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Construction Jihad]

[Correspondent] As a member of the Cabinet, how do you feel about mergers between other, similar organizations? Does the government have any further plans in this regard?

[Zangeneh] I have no information on whether or not there are similar plans. In reality there are a series of similar organizations in the country. But this starting point, the merger between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Construction Jihad, was the easiest and the best place to start. Because their forces are close together spiritually and the two systems are not very different, their duties are similar. Both ministries had reached the conclusion that their separation was not in the interest of the country's agriculture.

If, God willing, this plan is launched successfully, it will be a good example. Apart from the Ministry of Agriculture there have already been other organizations that have merged with the Ministry of the Construction Jihad. We have accepted them sincerely, and there must be no fear of such mergers. In Islam the main principles are unity, coordination, and service. This merger could be a beginning and a good experience.

One thing must be remembered, and that is the work in the villages, which is the main duty of the Construction Jihad in promoting economic and social improvements, is a localized, rural task which cannot be divided. With each village only a small area, having many different administrative offices and establishments for rural affairs will cause increasing and complicated bureaucracy and interference in local affairs.

Iraqi Bombing of Cities Fails To Weaken Fronts

LD131133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0400 GMT 13 Mar 87

[From the "Review of Foreign Broadcasts" program]

[Excerpts] More than 3 weeks have passed since the cessation of the criminal attacks of the 'Aflaqi regime of Iraq on the residential areas of our country. Already this is 1 week longer than that regime had previously announced. During this period foreign radios, quoting the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime, have repeatedly announced that the Iraqi regime has said it does not regard itself as bound by the suspension of the bombing of the residential areas of our country. [passage omitted]

As you heard, in the first few days after the cessation of attacks on the cities of our country, the criminals of Baghdad claimed that the Islamic Republic had allegedly bombed a few residential parts of Basra. This false claim which was, in fact, a mere excuse, was strongly denied by the War Propaganda Headquarters. The falsity of the Iraqi claim is clear from the fact that throughout the imposed war the Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated that it is not in favor of expanding the scope of the war to the cities and harming civilians; and according to international conventions it regards such actions as war crimes, and condemns them. At the same time, the Islamic Republic has announced that the issue of operations in the fronts cannot be an excuse or reason for attacks on civilians. It is generally the Iraqi criminals who are trying to establish some connection between these two separate issues. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in respecting the security of cities and strongly condemns the assertion of the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime that there is no distinction between the war of the cities and the battles in the fronts. The formal assertion of such a policy by the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime is, in itself, a sufficient and serious reason for international organizations to take determined steps against Iraq; but, unfortunately, they deliberately reveal their indifference towards this issue. This is at a time when the Iraqi regime, which has no other skill except crime, the slaughter of innocent people, and the destruction of homes and residential areas or crowded public premises such as hospitals, schools and factories, has in the past repeatedly announced that it perceives no difference between the cities and fronts and that it does not regard itself as bound by anything that would prevent it from pursuing its criminal methods. This has been the content of all the messages, or so-called threats and warnings, which have been repeated at certain intervals in the course of the imposed war in a uniformly emphatic and serious way. [passage omitted]

Now, Iraqi crimes have been made absolutely clear, and one can also see the hands of other individuals or countries in repeating such crimes. Even the propagandists of world arrogance who try to establish some kind of supposedly logical connection between the developments on the fronts and the expansion of the Iraqi crimes, also attempt to legitimize certain measures like the use of chemical weapons or the bombing of residential areas by the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime. In this way, they too reveal their own criminal nature. In the course of the past 2 weeks, after every new operation by the fighters of Islam on the battlefronts, these radios with various tricks have tried to convey that the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime is justified in resuming its bombings of residential areas. [passage omitted]

These radios mainly refer to a communique issued by the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime 3 weeks ago. That communique said that the government of Baghdad, supposedly at the request of the leader of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], had suspended the attacks on cities provided that: first the Islamic Republic of Iran not bomb Iraqi cities; and second that it not start a new offensive in the fronts. [passage omitted] The question now arises as to why the leader of the Monafeqin, who supposedly enjoys such esteem in the eyes of the criminals of Baghdad, did not make this request earlier. The other question is why before that date, side by side with Saddam, the leader of the Mojahedin guided the operations for the slaughter of civilians in the cities. [passage omitted]

The departure of revenge battalions [gordanha-ye enteqam] from the bombed cities, and simultaneously the dispatch of the 100,000-strong Mahdi Corps, may God hasten his glad advent, have been the unavoidable consequences of the criminal policies of the enemy. They have conveyed this message: Not only would the bombing of the cities not lead to the weakening of the fronts but on the contrary, it would strengthen them several-fold. Also, with the dedication our Muslim people have shown in the construction of shelters, not only did they arouse the surprise of others, they also disappointed the enemy in the results of the continuation of its crimes. [passage omitted]

The strategy of the criminal Iraqi regime in attacking the residential parts of our country is based upon a number of factors and elements which could serve as reasons for starting or stopping the bombing of our cities. Undoubtedly, the indefatigable and steadfast morale of our Muslim nation has played the decisive role in that strategy and will continue to do so.

IRGC, Iraqi Mojahedin Destroy Electricity Pylons

LD131121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] With the destruction of six high voltage electricity pylons along the Mawsil-Baghdad route, there were power-cuts in some industrial centers and parts of some cities of Iraq, including Baghdad.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, quoting the Ramadan Headquarters, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Iraqi Mojahedin under the command of the headquarters, at 0500 yesterday, during a daring operation several kilometers deep inside Iraqi territory, destroyed and set ablaze high voltage electricity pylons along the Mawsil-Baghdad route 20 km north of Tuz-Khurmatu. The noise of the explosion of these centers was heard from a very great distance. After carrying out these brave operations the Iraqi Mojahedin safely returned to base.

Communique No 2,773 Details Iraqi Base Shelling
LD121638 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Iran's Air Force jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi artillery concentration sites in the "Karbala'-7" theatre in Hajj 'Umran, northeastern Iraq, Thursday, destroying several enemy batteries. The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing mission, which was carried out at 10:23 GMT.

Announcing the above Thursday, the 2773th Joint Staff communique added that Muslim forces of Iran shelled a key Iraqi base in the "Karbala'-7" operational region Wednesday, killing at least 30 enemy soliders and destroying two mortar launchers, five heavy machine guns, and two trucks.

Parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and seven enemy soldiers captured by a convoy of Iranian patrols, who infiltrated Iraqi positions in the "Karbala'-7" theatre Wednesday night.

Also on Wednesday, another group of Iranian patrols broke through numerous Iraqi barricades, including barbed wire fences and mine fields in a southern front, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy before returning safely to bases.

In the western fronts, Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and losses, and movements of their logistical columns were checked on axes of Mandali, Sumar, and Naft-e Shah by heavy Iranian artillery fire on Wednesday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying over seven bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

Iran's naval gun boats intercepted and inspected nine cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flags in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no Iraqi-bound cargo on board, the communique concluded.

No 2,774 Reports Iraqi Oil Jetty Hit
LD131627 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Iran's naval forces intercepted and inspected seven cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to sail when no suspicious Iraqi-bound cargo was found on board, said a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2,774 issued by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces further said that the Iraqi oil jetty of Al-'Amyah was under heavy Iranian artillery fire on Thursday.

In Marivan operational theater in the northwestern fronts, the communique said, a number of enemy patrol units backed by artillery and mortar fire launched an attack against Iranian positions but were repelled after a two-hour battle, sustaining some casualties.

In one of the western fronts, it said, a patrol group of Iran's Muslim combatants discovered and seized over 140 enemy mines. Elsewhere in Sumar, also in the west, an enemy patrol was located and subjected to Iranian fire sustaining some casualties.

In most of the northwestern fronts, the communique said, exchange of heavy fire raged between the two sides being more intense in Hajj 'Umran operational theater, with the Iranian combatants holding the upper hand.

In Kalaleh region in the same fronts, an Iranian patrol conducted a successful operation against Iraqi defence lines destroying several enemy listening posts.

Exchange of fire was more intense in Kushk, Sharhani, and Bubiyan along the southern fronts, the communique said, adding that Iran's Muslim forces disrupted the activities of enemy engineering vehicles east of Basra. They also crushed an Iraqi patrol unit in Nahr-e 'Anbar operational theater.

In Bubiyan, Talayeh, and Majnun isles, the Iranian forces checked reconnaissance flights of enemy copters, concluded the communique.